

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-10 as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings of claims in the present application.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A data processing method performed by a server for providing data to a terminal via a network, the method comprising:

    a reception step of receiving a request for data loading from the terminal;

    a completion discrimination step of discriminating, in response to the request for data loading, whether a generation of requested data has completed or is in progress;

    a first transmission step of transmitting to the terminal the requested data if the generation thereof has completed;

    a prediction step of predicting an end time of the generation of the requested data if the generation thereof is in progress; and

    a second transmission step of transmitting the predicted end time and information for requesting data loading again at the predicted end time to the terminal ~~during the generation of the requested data~~ if the generation of the requested data is in progress.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A data processing method according to claim 1, wherein said prediction step predicts the end time based on ~~the size of the~~ an amount of data to be generated.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A data processing method according to claim 1, wherein ~~said data are result of the requested data is generated by~~ execution of a predetermined process, and said prediction step predicts the end time based on [[the]] ~~a~~ time required for executing [[said]] the predetermined process.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A data processing method performed by a terminal for receiving data from a server via a network, the method comprising:

an issuing step of issuing a request for data loading to the server;

a reception step of receiving from the server in response to the request either [[the]] requested data[[,]] or a predicted end time for generation of the requested data together with information for re-issuing the request for data loading at the predicted end time;

a display step of displaying the requested data or the predicted end time received from the server;

a data discriminating step of discriminating whether [[the]] received data ~~is the requested data or is~~ includes the information for re-issuing the request for data loading at the predicted end time; and

a re-issuing step of, in a case where the received data [[is]] includes the information for re-issuing the request for data loading at the predicted end time for generation of the requested data, re-issuing the request for data loading to the server when the predicted end time is reached.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A data processing apparatus for providing data to a terminal from a server via a network, the apparatus comprising:

reception means for receiving a request for data loading from the terminal;

completion discrimination means for discriminating, in response to the request for data loading, whether a generation of requested data has completed or is in progress;

first transmission means for transmitting to the terminal the requested data if the generation thereof has completed;

a prediction means for predicting an end time of the generation of the requested data if the generation thereof is in progress; and

second transmission means for transmitting the predicted end time and information for requesting data loading again at the predicted end time to the terminal ~~during the generation of the requested data~~ if the generation of the requested data is in progress.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A data processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said prediction means predicts the end time based on ~~the size of the~~ an amount of data to be generated.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A data processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein ~~said data are result of the requested data is generated by~~ execution of a predetermined process, and said prediction means predicts the end time based on [[the]] ~~a~~ time required for executing [[said]] the predetermined process.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A data processing apparatus for receiving data at a terminal from a server via a network, the apparatus comprising:

issuing means for issuing a request for data loading to the server;

a reception means for receiving from the server in response to the request either the requested data[[,] or a predicted end time for generation of the requested data together with information for re-issuing the request for data loading at the predicted end time;

display means for displaying the requested data or the predicted end time received from the server;

data discriminating means for discriminating whether the received data is the requested data or is includes the information for re-issuing the request for data loading at the predicted end time; and

control means adapted to for, in a case where the received data [[is]] includes the information for re-issuing the request for data loading at the predicted end time for generation of the requested data, control, controlling said issuing means as to re-issue the request for data loading to the server when the predicted end time is reached.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium storing a data processing program for controlling a server computer to perform data processing for providing to provide data from the server to a terminal via a network, [[said]] the program comprising codes for causing the server to perform:

a reception step of receiving a request for data loading from a terminal;

a completion discrimination step of discriminating, in response to the request for data loading, whether a generation of requested data has completed or is in progress;

a first transmission step of transmitting to the terminal the requested data if the generation thereof has completed;

a prediction step of predicting an end time of the generation of the requested data if the generation thereof is in progress; and

a second transmission step of transmitting the predicted end time and information for requesting data loading again at the predicted end time to the terminal ~~during the generation of the requested data~~ if the generation of the requested data is in progress.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium storing a data processing program for controlling a terminal computer to ~~perform data processing for receiving receive~~ data from a server via a network, [[said]] the program comprising codes for causing the terminal computer to perform ~~the steps of~~:

an issuing step of issuing a request for data loading to the server;

a reception step of receiving from the server in response to the request either [[the]] requested data[[,]] or a predicted end time for generation of the requested data together with information for re-issuing the request for data loading at the predicted end time;

a display step of displaying the requested data or the predicted end time received from the server;

a data discriminating step of discriminating whether the received data ~~is the requested data or is~~ includes the information for re-issuing the request for data loading at the predicted end time; and

a re-issuing step of, in a case where the received data [[is]] includes the information for re-issuing the request for data loading at the predicted end time for generation of the requested data, re-issuing the request for the data loading to the server when the predicted end time is reached.